



IACCGH NEWSLETTER

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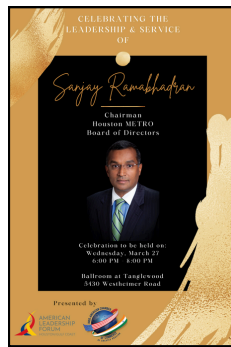
Indo-American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Houston
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Join us in honoring a quarter-century of excellence and achievements at the 25th Gala of IACCGH on September 21 - an event not to be missed!



Sanjay Ramabhadran shared his Inspiring journey with IACCGH, on the Open Forum Business Hour. He spoke about his transformation from a volunteer to a leader within the organization. Reminiscing about the early days of IACCGH in 1999, Sanjay's spoke about his commitment to civic engagement, deeply rooted in the values instilled by his parents, coupled with his leadership within IACCGH, serves as a milestone to the enduring impact of perseverance and dedication in attaining remarkable success. [Click here](#) for key takeaways.



The Houston community united to recognize Sanjay Ramabhadran's exceptional leadership and service during an event organized by the American Leadership Forum (ALF) and the IACCGH in partnership with the Texas Lyceum, Leadership Houston and TAG. Diverse speakers, including elected officials, civic leaders and industry professionals, lauded Sanjay's profound impact and enduring legacy, highlighting his visionary leadership and dedication to improving mobility and fostering collaboration. Sanjay expressed deep gratitude for the support and friendship of those gathered, reflecting on his journey from India to Texas and emphasizing the importance of community and giving back. [Click here](#) for more highlights from the event.

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IACCGH Congratulates AAOA Chairman

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Member In Focus
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Behind the scenes at the IACCGH Gala (Part II)

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Dawaat Catering

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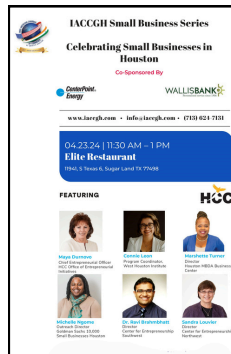
Upcoming events:

IACCGH Small Business Series Luncheon Featuring Port of Houston

June 12, 2024 (11:30 am- 1:00 pm)

Venue: Elite Restaurant

[Click here](#) to register



In an effort to bolster small businesses, Houston Community College (HCC) and the IACCGH recently co-hosted an event sponsored by CenterPoint Energy and Wallis Bank. The Small Business Series showcased entrepreneurial initiatives and experiences, with key figures from both organizations, panelists and community partners in attendance. Discussions highlighted commitment to fostering entrepreneurship, with Asif Dakri, CEO of Wallis Bank underscoring the bank's dedication to supporting small businesses, particularly during challenging times like the recent pandemic. Rajiv Bhavsar, President of IACCGH, reiterated the Chamber's commitment to organizing events that benefit the community, while Dr. Maya Durnovo from HCC outlined the college's initiatives aimed at supporting entrepreneurs, emphasizing successful programs made possible through strategic partnerships and grants. [Click here](#) to read more insights from the event.



Charles C. Foster, Chairman of Foster LLP, dissected the intricacies of U.S. immigration policies on the latest IACCGH Business Hour. Focusing on the hurdles faced by Indian nationals, Foster emphasized the need for pragmatic reforms and sustained advocacy to address systemic deficiencies and uphold the nation's legacy of inclusivity. His strong advocacy resonated deeply, highlighting the imperative for collaborative engagement in shaping immigration policy. [Click here](#) to learn more about U.S. immigration from IACCGH Business Hour.



The recent Small Business Series, co-hosted by IACCGH and sponsored by CenterPoint Energy and Wallis Bank, featured Cylenthia Hoyrd, Interim Director of the Office of Business Opportunity for the City of Houston. Hoyrd emphasized the importance of supporting small businesses through certifications and capacity building programs, highlighting the city's commitment to fostering an inclusive economic environment. Attendees gained valuable insights into accessing opportunities and resources available through the city's certification programs. [Click here](#) to see pictures from the event on the Chamber website.



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For over a decade, Crown Trophy has been the trusted partner of the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Houston (IACCGH), supplying trophies and mementos that add a touch of elegance to every event. By connecting with Dee Sprague, one of the owners of Crown Trophy, we uncovered the meticulous craftsmanship and enduring partnership that characterize their relationship with the Chamber.

Established 23 years ago, Crown Trophy has earned a reputation for delivering unparalleled quality and service. Their collaboration with the IACCGH began in 2013, and since then, they have become integral to the Chamber's endeavors, providing awards that reflect the essence of appreciation and recognition.

Dee Sprague reminisces about the evolution of their association with the Chamber, noting how it blossomed from a professional collaboration into a deep friendship. He highlights the importance of personal touch in crafting unique awards that capture the spirit of the occasion. "What makes the awards unique is the words that are on the rewards," Dee emphasizes, underscoring their commitment to tailoring each trophy to honor the Chamber's distinguished guests and supporters.

The process of creating these bespoke awards is a collaborative endeavor, with Crown Trophy working closely with the Chamber leadership. From selecting the perfect design to engraving customized messages, every detail is meticulously curated to reflect the significance of the recipient's contributions.



CRAFTING ELEGANCE AND COMMEMORATION FOR THE IACCGH'S MILESTONE EVENTS

Dee Sprague



Despite the challenges posed by tight timelines and sourcing constraints, Crown Trophy strives to exceed expectations with innovative solutions and alternative options. Dee acknowledges the importance of flexibility in meeting the Chamber's diverse needs, ensuring that every event is adorned with the perfect memento.

Among Crown Trophy's impressive collection is a stunning jade-colored crystal, standing at 13 inches tall, with ample space for intricate engravings. This exquisite piece exemplifies their commitment to craftsmanship and attention to detail, making it a coveted symbol of appreciation for recipients at IACCGH galas.

The enduring partnership between Crown Trophy and the IACCGH is not merely transactional; it is rooted in mutual respect and admiration. Dee Sprague warmly recounts how Jagdip Ahluwalia, executive director of the IACCGH has become part of the Crown Trophy family, enjoying unfettered access to their facilities and dedicated support from their team.

Dee Sprague, also delved into his insights on the Chamber's upcoming 25th Gala, a milestone event poised to mark a quarter-century of excellence and community impact.

With an air of anticipation, Dee shared his excitement for the Chamber's landmark celebration, highlighting the significance of this momentous occasion in honoring the Chamber's rich legacy and contributions to the Indo-American business community.

"The 25th Gala holds immense significance as it commemorates the Chamber's journey of growth and success over the past quarter-century," Dee remarked, underscoring the importance of celebrating this remarkable milestone with fervor and enthusiasm.

As a trusted partner of the Chamber, Dee reaffirmed Crown Trophy's commitment to supporting the Gala's success by providing bespoke trophies and mementos that embody the spirit of recognition and appreciation. "We are honored to be part of this momentous occasion and look forward to contributing our expertise in crafting memorable awards that reflect the Chamber's ethos of excellence," Dee affirmed, expressing his eagerness to play a role in commemorating the Chamber's 25th anniversary in style.

Over the years, Crown Trophy has received glowing recommendations from IACCGH members, a reflection to their dedication to excellence. Their collaboration with the Chamber extends beyond the realm of business, showcasing meaningful connections and enriching the community.

As the IACCGH continues to celebrate achievements and honor luminaries within the community, Crown Trophy remains steadfast in their commitment to crafting trophies that embody the spirit of success and appreciation.





A CULINARY CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE



Mahesh Shah

Daawat Catering, a renowned name in Houston's catering industry, has been the proud partner of the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Houston (IACCGH) Gala for over a decade. In an exclusive interview with Mahesh Shah, the founder and executive director of Daawat Catering, we delved into the significance of this longstanding partnership and the culinary innovations that continue to define their collaboration.

"The IACCGH gala is a prestigious event that brings together corporate, political and community leaders, offering us invaluable exposure," says Mahesh. "Our participation in this event elevates our reputation and places us in a league of our own."

As the chamber gears up to celebrate its 25th gala, Daawat Catering is gearing up to mark this milestone with culinary flair. Mahesh reveals, "We're excited to be part of the 25th-year celebration of IACCGH. Our culinary team is planning to introduce many new and unique items to this year's gala menu, including a dessert gallery."

On Daawat Catering's partnership with the Chamber, Mahesh added, "Along with so many venues and customers that the Chamber has facilitated to us, one of the most important venues is, George Brown Convention Center. It has opened so many contracts to our catering services."

Beyond the gala, Daawat Catering's commitment extends to catering numerous IACCGH events throughout the year. Mahesh explains, "Each occasion presents a unique opportunity to cater to specific groups of guests and reflect the spirit and objectives of the chamber. We focus on informal social hours, allowing guests to network over drinks and food. Alpa Shah, a dietitian by profession helps in developing recipes while Rajan Radhakrishnan helps in executing the events."

Reflecting on memorable moments and feedback from attendees, Shah emphasizes the importance of quality, diversity, and authenticity in their cuisine. "

When guests compliment us on the taste, similar to or even better than what they've experienced in India, it motivates us to excel further," he says.

Seeking continuous improvement, Daawat Catering values guest feedback to exceed expectations at every event. Mahesh emphasizes their philosophy of "Passion for Perfection," which drives their commitment to excellence. As a trusted partner, Daawat Catering plays a pivotal role in shaping the atmosphere and success of IACCGH gatherings. Mahesh highlights their portrayal of the chamber's significance in the success of its members, emphasizing the platform it provides to showcase products to the corporate world.

Adapting to the diverse preferences of IACCGH events' multicultural audience, Daawat Catering offers a fusion of Indian and international cuisines, garnering praise for their creative presentations and diverse menu offerings.

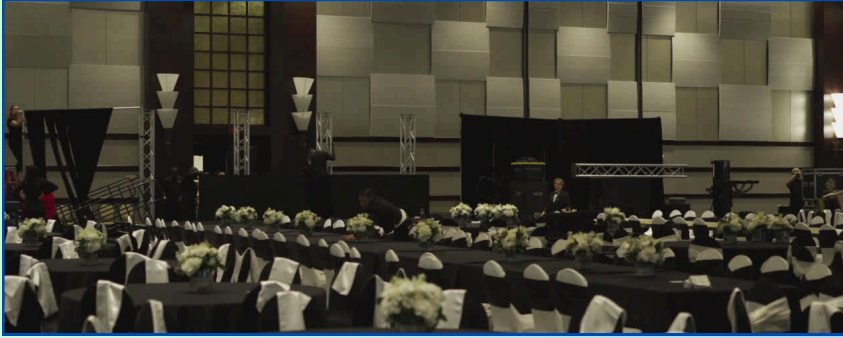
Looking ahead, Maheh envisions continued growth and collaboration between Daawat Catering and IACCGH. He credits the Chamber for introducing them to clients and guiding them through milestones like obtaining Minority Certification. He encourages everyone to join the Chamber to reap the benefits of its initiatives and opportunities.

As Daawat Catering continues its culinary journey of excellence, its partnership with IACCGH remains a testament to the power of collaboration in serving the Indo-American community in Houston.



Upscale Productions: Setting the Stage for a Remarkable IACCGH Gala

IACCGH Gala BTS



Chani Singh, the driving force behind Upscale Productions, brings a wealth of expertise and passion to the IACCGH Gala. With a background in AV production, his company specializes in turning ordinary events into extraordinary experiences. Through meticulous attention to detail and dedication to providing top-of-the-line sound, lighting and visual technologies, Upscale Productions ensures that every event is a memorable success.

UPSCALE
PRODUCTIONS

Chani Singh



Reflecting on his involvement with the Chamber Gala, Singh emphasized the importance of understanding the mission and vision of each project. He recounted how the initial connection with the gala came about through Therese Cole-Hubbs of Electric Karma International, stemming from their experience in handling South Asian luxury weddings and corporate events. This partnership has flourished over the years, with Upscale Productions consistently delivering exceptional results for the Chamber Gala.

Singh underscored the significance of the AV aspect in the success of such events, highlighting the meticulous planning and coordination required to seamlessly integrate audio, visual and lighting elements. He spoke of the collaborative process with IACCGH team, ensuring that every detail aligns with the overall vision of the event.

In discussing the challenges inherent in event production, Chani mentions the resilience and adaptability demonstrated by Upscale Productions. "While last-minute changes are inevitable in large-scale events, we pride ourselves on our ability to handle unforeseen challenges with grace and professionalism," Chani remarks. "Our experienced team is well-equipped to navigate any obstacles that may arise, ensuring that the event proceeds smoothly and flawlessly."

One particularly poignant moment for Singh and his team was witnessing the rendition of both the American and Indian national anthems at a recent IACCGH gala.

"As a South Asian production company, seeing these two anthems reverberate through the venue, accompanied by the expertly orchestrated audio, lighting and visual effects, was a moving experience. It exemplified the essence of unity and collaboration that the Chamber Gala embodies, transcending cultural boundaries and celebrating diversity," he said.

Looking ahead to the milestone 25th gala of the IACCGH, Upscale Productions is gearing up to unveil new concepts and technologies that promise to elevate the guest experience to unprecedented heights. "We're excited to introduce some cutting-edge innovations that will captivate attendees and leave a lasting impression," Chani reveals. "From custom LED displays to immersive audiovisual experiences, we are constantly striving to redefine the standard of excellence in event production."

As preparations for the 25th gala is underway, Chani emphasizes the importance of feedback and continuous improvement in nurturing long-term partnerships.

"Our journey with the IACCGH is not just about one event—it's about building a lasting relationship based on trust, professionalism and a shared commitment to excellence," Chani concludes. "With each event, we aim to surpass expectations and create unforgettable memories, laying the foundation for a future filled with success and collaboration."

The partnership between Upscale Productions and the IACCGH extends beyond mere collaboration—it is rooted in a shared passion for excellence and innovation. "We are committed to pushing the boundaries of event production and delivering unparalleled experiences for our clients," Chani says. "Through our partnership with the IACCGH, we have had the opportunity to showcase our creativity and expertise on several prestigious platforms, further solidifying our reputation as industry leaders."

With Upscale Productions at the helm, the 25th IACCGH gala promises to be an unforgettable celebration of culture, collaboration and success.

The Chamber has been encouraging us to leverage our relationship to connect with and service the large corporations that are members and supporters of IACCGH - Chani Singh





Miraj S. Patel

LEADING WAYSIDE INVESTMENT GROUP INTO THE FUTURE

Miraj S. Patel, President of Wayside Investment Group, is not just a second-generation hotelier; he's exemplifies to the American dream in action. Born and raised amidst the bustling hotel business, Miraj's journey is rooted in hard work, dedication, and a deep appreciation for his family's legacy.

Reflecting on his beginnings, Miraj fondly recalls growing up on Wayside Drive in Houston, where his parents, immigrants from India, embarked on their entrepreneurial journey in 1995. It was here that Miraj's passion for the hospitality industry took root. After earning his Bachelor of Science in Hotel Lodging Management and a Master's in Business Administration, Miraj took the helm of his own venture, Wayside Investment Group, in 2020.

For Miraj, the name "Wayside Investment Group" holds profound significance—it serves as a tribute to his roots and a constant reminder of the values instilled by his family.

With a focus on the real estate sector, the company's mission is clear: to achieve success, not just for themselves, but for others as well. Miraj emphasizes the importance of collaboration and community, stating, "It's always about a group effort. How do we make it happen together?"

As a prominent member of the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Houston (IACCGH), Miraj recognizes the Chamber's pivotal role in fostering connections and facilitating growth within the community. He commends the Chamber for its tireless efforts in organizing networking events, educational seminars, and galas that bring together diverse professionals under one roof.



Miraj's dedication to giving back extends beyond his business endeavors.

He actively engages with various associations and organizations, leveraging collective wisdom to drive industry innovation. Recently appointed as Chairman of the Asian American Hotel Owners Association (AAHOA), Miraj is committed to addressing the challenges facing the hospitality industry and spearheading initiatives to enhance profitability.

In discussing the future, Miraj emphasizes the importance of strategic planning and alignment within the company. With clear goals and a shared vision, Wayside Investment Group is poised for continued success in the years to come.

Miraj's leadership philosophy revolves around motivation, accountability and a relentless pursuit of excellence.

Looking ahead, Miraj envisions new opportunities for collaboration between the Chamber and other local organizations. He proposes joint initiatives, such as combined town hall meetings and networking events, to foster cross-industry dialogue and knowledge-sharing.

Miraj S. Patel's journey exemplifies the spirit of entrepreneurship, resilience, and community engagement. As he continues to make strides in the hospitality and real estate sectors, Miraj remains committed to driving positive change and empowering others along the way.



REDBLUEARTS GALLERY HOSTS UNFORGETTABLE ART RECEPTION : A CELEBRATION OF TALENT AND MENTORSHIP

On March 25, the RedBlueArts Gallery in Houston came alive with the spirit of creativity and camaraderie as it played host to an art reception. The event marked a significant milestone for a group of dedicated students and their mentor, Gopaal Seyn, whose collective artistic journey culminated in a display of talent and achievement.

Talking to the attendees, Jagdip Ahluwalia, the Founder and Executive Director of the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Houston (IACCGH), emphasized the importance of incorporating art into education for a well-rounded personality. He recounted the inspiring flight of Seyn, whose art journey took him from local galas to the iconic Taj Mahal hotel in India.



Gopaal Seyn



Jagdip's words underscored the transformative power of art and mentorship, highlighting the privilege of learning from the right people and the importance of visibility for budding artists.

Julie Chakravarty expressed her admiration for the level of artistry showcased at the gallery. She credited Seyn for his dedication to motivating and nurturing young artists, acknowledging the blend of innate talent and mentorship that resulted in the astounding achievements of the students. Chakravarty's words echoed the sentiment of gratitude towards Seyn and celebrated the impressive accomplishments of the budding painters.

Chief guest of the event, Consul General of India in Houston, D.C. Manjunath praised the students for their ability to express their minds through art, noting its transformative impact on their overall development. Manjunath's remarks highlighted the role of art in shaping individuals and fostering excellence across various fields of education.

The art reception at RedBlueArts Gallery was more than just an exhibition; it was a celebration of talent, mentorship and the transformative power of art. In the words of the special guests, attendees were reminded of the importance of incorporating art into education, the impact of dedicated mentorship and the profound significance of creativity in shaping individuals and communities.

As the evening drew to a close, the echoes of encouragement and inspiration resonated vivid reminders of art's timeless ability to ignite dreams and cultivate development.